



MEMBERS EXCHANGE

QUARTERLY PUBLICATION OF
THE AMERICAN MEDALLIC SCULPTURE ASSOCIATION

2019 Vol. 38 ISSUE 2

AMSA AWARDS MICHAEL MESZAROS MEDAL OF THE YEAR



The American Medallic Sculpture Association is pleased to announce that the winner of the 2018 American Medal of the Year (AMY) award is "Breakout" by Michael Meszaros. The medal is cast in bronze in an edition of 30 and is available directly from the artist.

Three additional medals were deemed worthy of Honorable Mention—*Hedy Lamarr* by Eugene Daub, *Robin Salmon*, *Curator of Sculpture at Brookgreen Gardens* by Dan Kraus, and *False Announcement (that Harriet Tubman would replace Alexander Hamilton on \$20 bills)* by Art Ellis. See page 3

INSIDE

| | |
|----------------------------------|----|
| AMY AWARD ENTRIES..... | 3 |
| THE GROLIER CLUB MEDAL..... | 8 |
| FAKE NOBEL..... | 9 |
| JAHF AT THE SKIRBALL MUSEUM..... | 10 |
| RABBI ISAAC MAYER WISE..... | 11 |

| | |
|-------------------------------|----|
| STEVE BROWN RETIREMENT..... | 13 |
| RECENT MEMBER MEDALS..... | 14 |
| MEDIALIA GALLERY EXHIBIT..... | 15 |
| ANN SHAPER POLLACK AWARD..... | 16 |

AMSA OFFICERS

President: Heidi Wastweet
heidi@wastweetstudio.com

Vice President: Anne-Lise Deering
supermedal@frontier.com

Vice President: Eugene Daub
eugenedaub@cox.net

Treasurer: Douglas White
dkwhite@umich.edu

Secretary: Jim Licaretz
idolls@earthlink.net

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Marie Jean Lederman
mariejean201@yahoo.com

Lotte Cherin
clotte@gmail.com

Ken Douglas
dieman@att.net

Anne Cooper
hamandogre@yahoo.com

Lindsay Nonhof-Fisher
fisher.lindsay.m@gmail.com

Mel Wacks
Numismel@aol.com

Editor: Aayush Sharma

For general information or to submit an article or inquire about placing an ad, send your email to
Amsanews@frontier.com

To become a member or to renew an existing membership, you can do so online. Please visit our website at:

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Or send a check to
American Medallic Sculpture Assoc.
PO Box 1201
Edmonds WA 98020

US and Canada \$40
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PRESIDENT'S LETTER



Greetings,

The AMY award issue is always a highly anticipated one, packed with images and inspiration. A huge thank you to all of you who sent in your entries and nominations. It was our most competitive year yet! Not only that but we have our first two time winner - Congratulations to Michael Meszaros! Our jury was also moved to choose three honorable mentions which is, to date, the most we have ever had.

Congratulations to Eugene Daub, Art Ellis, and Dan Kraus.

As we have done every year we have published all the entries here so you can have a look back at all the new medals made last year. I sure don't envy the jurors' task of having narrowed down this group of fine medals.

Looking forward, I have a few reminders for upcoming events. You should have already received your ballots for our biennial elections. I'm pleased to see a few new names this year to keep our governing body fresh. Please show your support by voting. Also we have two competition reminders - The Women's Suffrage Medal due at the end of the year and FIDEM 2020. Keep those on your calendars. Note that the FIDEM deadline has been extended to October 15, 2019, so that's great news for all of us procrastinators. You can always check for opportunities and events on our website.

Another announcement is that we have a high school student who asked if she can do a volunteer summer project for us. The Board of Directors approved the idea so I'd like to welcome Pratishta Vashishta as our Social Media Manager. Pratishta will be a senior this fall, she lives in Singapore and has previously contributed to the Members Exchange by writing an article for us. Keep an eye out for increased online presence for AMSA.

Finally, I'd also like to add a warm wish for a very happy retirement to Steve Brown, of C. A. Brown, Inc. and thank him for casting so many of our members artwork. His work will be missed. I'm told there is a plan for the business to continue under new management and we will try to keep you updated on that. In the meantime, anyone looking for an alternative foundry can also call the Classic Foundry in Seattle Washington, which is experienced with casting art medals.

Have a great summer everyone, and thank you for keeping this wonderful art form alive.



AMY AWARD HONORABLE MENTIONS



*False Announcement
(that Harriet Tubman would replace
Alexander Hamilton on \$20 bills)
by Art Ellis.*

*Robin Salmon, Curator of Sculpture at
Brookgreen Gardens
by Dan Kraus*

*Hedy Lamarr, Jewish-American Hall of
Fame
by Eugene Daub*



A RECORD NUMBER OF 48 MEDALS WERE SUBMITTED FOR THE 2018 AMY AWARD, THESE ARE THE NOMINEES IN NO PARTICULAR ORDER



*William Penn for American Numismatic Association
Philadelphia Convention
designed by Jamie Franki and sculpted by Heidi Wastweet*



*The Story Tellers
by Alicia Ponzio (for Brookgreen Gardens)*



*Crusade For Human Rights
by Polly Purvis*



*Medal Collectors of America Award Medal
by Eugene Daub*



*Medal Collectors of America Club Medal
by Alex Shagin*



*Numismatica
by Sandra Deiana*



*Medal Commemorating the ShUM Cities of Speyer,
Worms and Mainz, Issued by the Numismatic Societies of
Mainz-Wiesbaden and Speyer
by Victor Huster*



*Obverse: Rio de Santo Reverse: Good dog
by Jeanne Stevens-Sollman*





Leonda Finke
by Carter Jones



Impassioned Horse
by Emily Bedard



Freedom of Thought
by Gary Cooper



Hereditas Romana
by Robert Ongaro



Justice
by Candice Russell



Untitled
by Watanabe



"National Emergency"
US Southern Border
by Polly Purvis



Keeping In Shape
by Michael Meszaros



Suomi In Dreams
by Anatoly Karpov



Trash Art Hi-Tech
by Anatoly Karpov,



900 Nights And Days
by Anatoly Karpov,



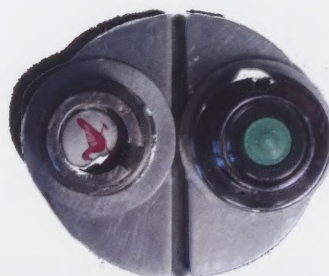
U.S. Astronauts on the Moon by Janet Indick.



Angel
by Janet Indick.



Korean Peace Talks
by Jeanne Stevens-Sollman



Moon Phases
First Quarter: Fly Me to the Moon
Last Quarter:
The Moon Is Made of Green
Cheese
by Janet Indick.



Opioids
by Pat Moberley Moore





Fellini I
by Geer Steyn.



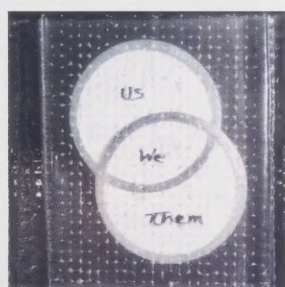
Fellini II
by Geer Steyn.



Fellini III
by Geer Steyn.



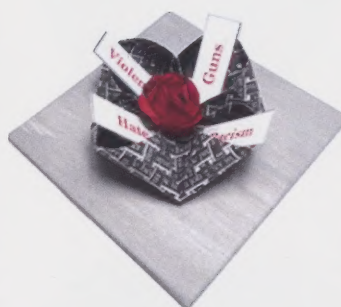
Schoenberg
by Geer Steyn



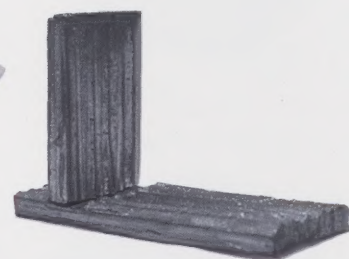
Us/We/Them
by Polly Purvis



Ram; Brookgreen Gardens
by Sandra Deiana



Basket of Deplorable Words
by Ruth Mary Giverin



Nature Study
by Schuyler Blanchard



Bone Pillow II
by Marion Held



The Drakes
by Jiannan Wu.



To All Who Served; (for New York Numismatic Club)
obverse by Eugene Daub;
reverse designed by Joel Iskowitz; sculpted by Luigi Badia;
base by Mashiko



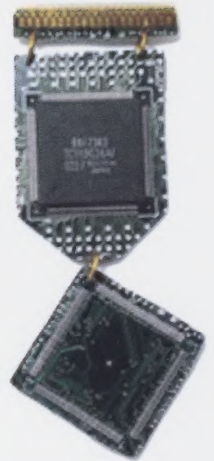
Left & Top Right:
Honey
by Jeremiah D. Welsh:



Center and Bottom Right:
Springtime
by Jeremiah D. Welsh:



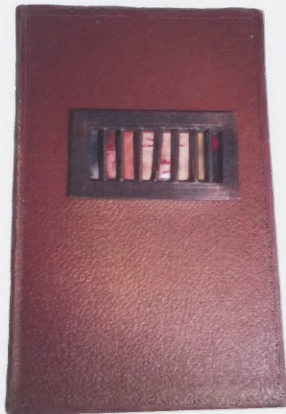
The Sakura Sweetness Set
by Jeremiah Daniel Welsh



Computer Memories
by George Cuhaj



The King Of The Dark Chamber
by James Malonebeach



Shadow Of A Crime
by James Malonebeach



An Orange Blighted World
by James Malonebeach



Individual Veterans Citation for American Defense (US Marine Corps version)
by Marine Joe Marti, Disabled Veteran
Trench art from repurposed brass WW2 US American Defense Service Medal.

Penetrating Spatiotemporal Layers
by Keiko Kubota - Miura.



THE GROLIER CLUB COMMISSIONS MARC MELLON FOR A WALT WHITMAN BICENTENNIAL MEDAL



The Grolier Club is the oldest private club and society of bibliophiles in North America. In celebration of Walt Whitman's 200th birthday, they had mounted an exhibit honoring Whitman, Poet of the Body, New York's Walt Whitman. In concert with the celebrations going on globally, the Grolier Club commissioned Marc Mellon to create a Walt Whitman Bicentennial Medal.

Marc developed multiple designs for the medal, working with exhibition curators Susan Tane (pictured) and Karen Karbiener. He worked in plastiline on a 15.25" plaster dish.

For optimal quality, each medal was struck a total of 10 times, and then patinated. Medals are available for purchase through The Grolier Club. For more info please contact Maev Brennan: mbrennan@grolierclub.org



FAKE NOBEL PRIZE MEDAL PRESENTED TO DR. AMY FARRAH FOWLER AND DR. SHELDON COOPER ON FINAL EPISODE OF THE BIG BANG THEORY

BY MEL WACKS

Did you happen to notice that the Nobel Prize medal awarded to Dr. Amy Farrah Fowler and Dr. Sheldon Cooper on the final episode of *The Big Bang Theory* was not what a real Nobel Prize medal looks like? I would guess that there was a copyright problem that prevented the real medal from being pictured.

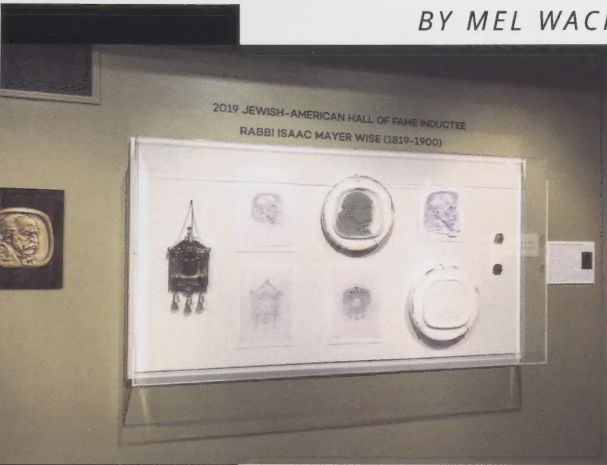
The Big Bang Nobel Prize medal has an entirely different portrait of Alfred Nobel. His birth year is indicated as MDCCCXXXII instead of MDCCCXXXIII on the actual medal, and the year of his death is indicated as MDCCCXCIV rather than MDCCCXCVI on the genuine Nobel Prize medal.

I wonder who designed the revised Nobel Prize medal. It sure would make a great collector's item.



JEWISH-AMERICAN HALL OF FAME COLLECTION AT THE SKIRBALL MUSEUM

BY MEL WACKS



Beginning on Thursday, March 21, 2019 and continuing through July 28th, the Skirball Museum on the historic Cincinnati campus of Hebrew Union College–Jewish Institute of Religion is presenting the medal collection of the Jewish-American Hall of Fame (JAHF). It is the longest continuing series of art medals being issued in America. The exhibition opened with a reception in Mayerson Hall followed by remarks and a slide talk by Skirball Museum director Abby Schwartz. JAHF founder Mel Wacks gave a talk and presented a medal honoring HUC founder, Rabbi Isaac Mayer Wise, to his descendant Ms. Louise Bettman on Founders' Day, April 4th.

Founded in 1969 by Mel Wacks at the Judah L. Magnes Museum in Berkeley, California, the Jewish-American Hall of Fame became a division of the American Jewish History Society in New York in 2001. The award-winning JAHF website came under the auspices of the American Numismatic Society in 2012. Limited edition two-inch bronze medals are issued annually to commemorate the accomplishments of Jewish Americans in various fields as well as to honor historic sites and events in American Jewish history. According to Mel Wacks, "More than 25,000 Jewish-American Hall of Fame medals have been acquired by collectors around the world over the past 50 years, but the exhibition at the Skirball Museum is the first time that a complete collection has ever been on public display."

The JAHF art medals have been designed by over a dozen different medalists, including winners of the American Numismatic Association's Numismatic Award for Excellence in Medallistic Sculpture and the American Numismatic Society's J. Sanford Saltus Award for Signal Achievement in the Art of the Medal. The first medal and almost all subsequent issues are uniquely trapezoidal in shape, an innovation of Berkeley sculptor Victor Ries (1907–2013). In 1990, Alan Stahl wrote in the catalogue of the International Federation of Medallistic Art (FIDEM) that the JAHF medals were one of the three most "important series of medals in recent years." JAHF art medals have been struck by some of America's leading private mints—Medallic Art Company, MedalCraft Mint, and Highland Mint—in small editions, with each medal individually serial numbered on the edge.

"We are delighted to bring this exhibition to the Skirball Museum," says Skirball Museum director Abby Schwartz. The exhibition features all 50 medals in duplicate, so that the reverse of each can be viewed, as well as displays that chronicle the history and origin of portrait medals; the process of creating the medals from original sketches to clay and plaster models and dies; and texts and video about the accomplishments of the inductees.

The Skirball Museum has agreed to now be the permanent home of the Jewish-American Hall of Fame Medal Collection.

Mel Wacks
and Skirball
Museum
Director
Abby
Schwartz



RABBI ISAAC MAYER WISE IS THE 50TH INDUCTEE OF THE JEWISH-AMERICAN HALL OF FAME

Skirball Museum director Abby Schwartz indicated that "We are so pleased that the JAHF advisory council has chosen to honor Rabbi Isaac Mayer Wise as the 2019 inductee on the 200th anniversary of his birth. As founder of Hebrew Union College and many of the institutions of American Reform Judaism, Rabbi Isaac Mayer Wise is an iconic figure in the history of American Jewish life and well-deserving of this recognition."

The Isaac Mayer Wise Jewish-American Hall of Fame medal was designed by renowned sculptor Eugene Daub. The high relief portrait was based on a plaque made by Boris Schatz; the Torah Breastplate depicted on the reverse was crafted by Andrew Messmer and presented to Rabbi Wise on his 80th birthday. The plaque and breastplate are both in the collection of the Skirball Museum, Cincinnati. The medals are struck by The Highland Mint.

The 2-inch diameter Isaac Mayer Wise art medals are limited to no more than 150 bronze, 75 pure silver (3 oz.) and 35 gold-plated pure silver (3 oz.) medals. They are offered for contributions of \$50, \$200 and \$250 respectively to the non-profit Jewish-American Hall of Fame. To order, call 818-225-1348 or send payment to JAHF, c/o Mel Wacks, 5189 Jefferdale Ave., Woodland Hills, CA 91364. Mention that you read about it in this publication and you can take a 20% discount. Each medal is numbered on the edge and comes with a certificate of authenticity.

Isaac Mayer Weiss was born on March 29, 1819, the oldest son of Regina and Leo Weiss, in Steingrub, Bohemia (currently a part of the Czech Republic). He was a brilliant student, and at the age of nine, his father, a teacher, had taught him all he knew about the Bible and the Talmud. He then went to study with his grandfather, a physician, who died three years later. Weiss continued his studies in the Talmud and the Bible at various schools. He completed his formal education by attending the University of Prague and the University of Vienna for three years.



At the age of 23, in 1842, he appeared before a Beth Din - or a rabbinical court - of three well-known rabbis: Solomon Judah Rappaport, Samuel Freund, and Ephraim Loeb Teweles, who together conferred on him the title of rabbi. Two years later, he married Therese Bloch, who gave birth to ten children by him.

Weiss found that being a rabbi in Bohemia brought him problems with the government, because of the restrictions still in force against the Jews. He decided to come to America because of its religious freedom, arriving in New York on July 23, 1846, and changed the spelling of his name to Wise.

Wise became the rabbi of Congregation Beth El in Albany, N.Y. He was there four years, initiating new reforms in the religious services. He introduced choral singing, confirmation to replace Bar Mitzvah, and the seating of men and women together in pews for services.



His changes resulted in much disapproval. In 1850, on the morning of the beginning of Rosh Hashanah that evening, Wise was dismissed at a rump meeting of the Board of Directors. The next day havoc broke loose between his followers and those who opposed him. Soon after, a group broke away from Beth El and, with Rabbi Wise, established a new Reform synagogue called Anshe Emet, "Men of Truth".

In 1854, Wise went to Cincinnati, Ohio, to become rabbi of Beth K.K. B'nai Yeshurun, a Reform congregation. (Since 1931, the temple has been known as the Isaac M. Wise Temple.) He stayed there the rest of his life. It was from there that he tried creating a national organization of congregations. He found this a difficult task, as the Orthodox rabbis were at odds with the Reform movement. Nevertheless, despite his setbacks, Wise continued to advocate a union of congregations, a common prayer book, and a college to educate and train American rabbis.

Parts of his dreams came true when, in 1873, when delegates from 34 Reform congregations met in Cincinnati and organized the Union of American Hebrew Congregations. Two years later, in July 1875, the Union established the Hebrew Union College, the first Jewish seminary in the United States. Wise became its president and teacher. Wise was also an organizer and mover in the establishment of the Central Conference of American Rabbis, in 1889. Elected its president, he served until he died. This conference adopted the Union Prayer Book that would be used by all Reform congregations. Rabbi Isaac Mayer Wise died on March 26, 1900.

IN THE NEWS

JIANNAN WU



AMSA member Jiannan Wu was the most recent recipient of a Canadian foundation grant called the Elizabeth Greenshields Foundation grant. The foundation was created in 1955 by Charles Glass Greenshields, a distinguished Montreal lawyer and amateur artist, in memory of his mother, Elizabeth. Mr. Greenshields personally directed the foundation that he created for the first 13 years of its existence and remained active in its organization until his death in 1974. His vision and his mission live on through that which he so generously endowed. Wu was awarded this grant through application, and he will use this grant for his upcoming new series of sculptures which will include medals.



STEVE BROWN RETIRES

BY GEORGE CUHAJ



315 Wellington Avenue, Cranston RI, has been a familiar address for many AMSA members who cast small bronze works. If one Googles the address one sees that Wellington Avenue is the one street between I-95 and the Amtrak main line and the old US 1 ; right in the thick of things.

The firm C.A. Brown, Inc. was started in 1946, in Providence by Steve's father, Carl Andrew Brown. It was relocated to Cranston in 1963. Carl remained with the firm until 1974 when he retired due to illness.

Steve joined the firm full time after graduation from high school in 1967, having already been working there during the summer months.

Specializing in small and mid-size casting, his fit into the medallic art community was just right. He became involved when, in the formative years of AMSA, Dr. Alan Stahl reached out to several firms for assistance. Knowing that a cast medal would have lower price point than having a medal struck, Stahl believed it would allow more US medalists to participate in international FIDEM shows. Steve offered a program where he would cast a medal for free for members. Several took him up on the offer, and most became long-term clients. Steve participated by attending several NYC AMSA events as well as the London FIDEM and transporting his moveable vacuum casting table to the AMSA Trout Run workshops for some hands experience.



C.A. Brown building exterior, Cranston RI



Maryvonne Rosse and Steve Brown admire the AMSA exhibit at the Cast Iron Gallery in NYC.

He is "New England" modest. He will offer suggestions to clients only apologetically. He says he is not a public speaker, but his presentations are wonderful.

At 70, Steve has been with the firm for 52 years, and he says it is now time for he and his wife to make a few more trips. They have already traveled much and are currently planning a fall adventure to the Azores.

In corresponding with Steve, I think that some wonderful news I can now share is that all of the equipment is being sold to a long-time supplier and friend. He will be moving it and setting it up in his shop and thus continuing to serve the medallic (and jewelry) community. Steve adds that it will take some time to get things up and running, but he is willing to help since, as he added, "It's a bit of a learning curve."

We all owe Steve a bit of gratitude for his participation in, advice, financial support and encouragement to AMSA, and wish him and his wife the very best of everything in the future.





Obverse: Homeless
Reverse: Shelter from the Storm



both medals are cast bronze with hand patina available from the artist

Obverse: Immigration
Reverse: I don't care



JEANNE STEVENS-SOLLMAN

LUIGI BADIA



I have done a number of commission work plasters this past year, but the Obverse & Reverse plasters I designed and sculpted for the US Mint WWI Centennial Commemorative Coin Competition are two of my favorites. Although not selected as the winning design, I was proud to have been selected as one of the finalist.



The authorizing law for the 2018 World War I American Veterans Centennial Commemorative Coin Program required a competition to be held to select a winning coin design emblematic of the centennial of America's involvement in World War I. The law called for a single winner to design both the obverse and the reverse of the coin. The law also requires that all designs submitted be accompanied by a plaster model. During Phase One of the competition, artists submitted three to five work samples for consideration. In Phase Two, selected artists created and submitted designs and plasters for the final coin. From those submissions one artist was chosen.

MEDIALIA GALLERY

335 West 38th Street, 4th Floor
New York, NY 10018
(212) 971-0953
www.medialiagallery.com

June 15 to July 27, 2019

Reception: Sat. July 13, 3–6pm

Gallery hours: Wed–Sat, 12–6PM, or by appointment



Richard McDermott Miller



Space I

2017 and 2018 Sanford Saltus Award Recipients:

Bogomil Nikolov and Geer Steyn



Geer Steyn

Space II

Condensed Expression

Table-top and small wall sculpture by gallery artists

Helder Batista, Robert Donahue, João Duarte, Dan Fialdini,
Leonda Froehlich Finke, Thomas Gasiewski, Marion Held, Kunio Iizuka,
Hitoshi Kimura, Aya Kawanabe, Masami Kodama, Barbara Leckberg,
Mashiko, Charles McCleary, Richard McDermott Miller, Barry Parker,
Polly Purvis, Seiji Saito José Simão, Mitsuo Takaya,
Masayuki Takemoto, Tsutomu Tamura, Elsa Tarantal, Sohta Watanabe

Space III

Through July 2019

Medallic Images of War: Death and Destruction 1850–1950

Curated by Scott Miller from the collections of
David Simpson, Scott Miller, Normand Pépin, Dr. Jay Galst,
Michael Parris, Dr. Ira Rezak, Frederic Withington



Bogomil Nikolov

Above left
by Josef Gangl, 1915
David Simpson collection



ANNUAL MEDAL AWARD OF THE SOFIA MEDALLIC SCULPTURE STUDIO 2019

Every year the Medallic Sculpture Studio at the Sofia National Academy of Art with Professor Nikolov and Assistant Shishkov presents a Best Achievement Award for Medal Art. For several years this award has been sponsored by the American artist Ann Shaper Pollack. In 2019 it was won by the student Alexandra Angelova. Different medal events motivate the students and almost all performed very well at the annual exhibition, so we had difficulty in selecting a winner. Two of them excelled in their productivity, ingenuity and talent. That is why the jury decided to award another equivalent prize sponsored by the Medal Department, which Sofia Sotirova won.



Sofia Sotirova MORNING diptych, 90x160 mm brass



Alexandra Angelova LANDSCAPE, 100 mm brass

